

Dagaare language

Dagaare is the maternal language of the Dagaaba people in Ghana and Burkina Faso. It has been described as a dialect continuum that also includes Waale and Birifor.

Ethnologue divides Dagaare into three languages:

- Southern/Central Dagaare language, which is spoken mainly in Ghana
- Northern Dagara language, which is spoken mainly in Burkina Faso
- Dagaari Dioula, which is spoken mainly in Burkina Faso, and has significant influence from the genetically unrelated Dioula language

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Phonology

The consonant and vowel sounds in the Dagaare languages:

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
	I		o
Close-mid	e		ø
Open-mid	ɛ		ɔ
Open		a	

Consonants

Dagaare	
Native to	Ghana, Burkina Faso
Ethnicity	Dagaaba people
Native speakers	1.1 million (2001–2003) ^[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Atlantic–Congo ▪ Gur ▪ Northern ▪ Oti–Volta ▪ Moré–Dagbani ▪ Moré ▪ Dagaare
Writing system	Latin (Dagaare alphabet) Dagaare Braille
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	Variously: dga – Southern Dagaare dgd – Dagaari Dioula dgi – Northern Dagara
Glottolog	sout2789 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sout2789) Central Dagaare ^[2] daga1272 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/daga1272) Dagaari Dioula ^[3] nort2780 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nort2780) Northern Dagara ^[4]



Majority areas of Northern Dagara speakers, in red, on a map of Burkina Faso.

		Bilabial	Labio-dental	Alveolar	Post-Alveolar	Palatal	Labio-velar	Velar	Glottal
Stop	<u>voiceless</u>	p		t				k	?
	<u>voiced</u>	b		d				g	
Affricate	<u>voiceless</u>				tʂ		kp		
	<u>voiced</u>				dʐ		gβ		
Fricative	<u>voiceless</u>		f	s					h
	<u>voiced</u>		v	z					
	<u>implosive</u>								'h
Nasal	plain	m		n		ŋ	ŋm	ŋ	
	<u>implosive</u>	'm							
Lateral	plain			l					
	<u>implosive</u>			'l					
<u>Approximant</u>						j	w		

Allophones of /d, g/ include [r, ɣ].^[5]

References

1. Southern Dagaare (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/dga/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Dagaari Dioula (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/dgd/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
Northern Dagara (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/dgi/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Central Dagaare" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sout2789>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Dagaari Dioula" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/daga1272>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
4. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Northern Dagara" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nort2780>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
5. Bodomo, Adams (1997). *The Structure of Dagaare*. Stanford University.

External links

- [Alphabet and pronunciation](http://www.omniglot.com/writing/dagaare.htm) (<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/dagaare.htm>) at *Omniglot*
- [Bodomo, Adams, "The Dagaare language and its speakers: Introduction"](http://www.hku.hk/linguist/staff/intro_dagPro.htm) (http://www.hku.hk/linguist/staff/intro_dagPro.htm)
- [PanAfriL10n page on Dagaare](http://www.bisharat.net/wikidoc/pmwiki.php/PanAfrLoc/Dagaare) (<http://www.bisharat.net/wikidoc/pmwiki.php/PanAfrLoc/Dagaare>)
- [Bibliography of Dagaare Studies](https://web.archive.org/web/20110419001955/http://www.hku.hk/linguist/staff_ab.DagaareBibliog.html) (https://web.archive.org/web/20110419001955/http://www.hku.hk/linguist/staff_ab.DagaareBibliog.html)
- [Journal of Dagaare Studies](https://web.archive.org/web/20110608132621/http://www0.hku.hk/linguist/staff/Bodomo/JDS/all.html) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110608132621/http://www0.hku.hk/linguist/staff/Bodomo/JDS/all.html>)
- [Database of audio recordings in Dagara - basic Catholic prayers](http://dominicweb.eu/en/endictionaries/exotic-languages-prayers?dgi) (<http://dominicweb.eu/en/endictionaries/exotic-languages-prayers?dgi>)

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